

Testimony of Jeffrey Battiston on behalf of Green Energy Capital  
before the Energy and Technology Committee  
On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects  
Until the Adoption of Regulations*  
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Jeffrey Battiston and I'm with Green Energy Capital an independent banking firm with an office in Hartford, Connecticut that invests in the renewable energy and cleantech sectors. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Green Energy Capital in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations.

The State of Connecticut has been a leader promoting the development of renewable energy in the state. In fact, the legislature has mandated that 27 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2020. Those efforts are beginning to pay off in the wind, solar and other renewable industries in the state encouraging investments in green technologies and green jobs. Green projects such as the two commercial wind farms being proposed in Colebrook and Prospect should be encouraged and promoted by the legislature. These wind projects are exactly the type of renewable energy projects that policy makers have been encouraging in the state. Now is not the time to put the brakes on and reverse policies by putting up roadblocks for renewable energy. A moratorium on the wind industry which is in its infancy in the state would stifle investment and have a devastating effect on wind in Connecticut for many years to come.

I strongly encourage you not to impose additional regulations on wind energy, but rather to let the Siting Council do their job as they have done with many other types of electric facilities including transmission lines, substations, coal plants, nuclear plants, natural gas plants and other renewable projects. Wind energy is the future, and should be part of Connecticut's future too. Many companies are looking to invest in the wind industry in the state. A moratorium on wind would send the wrong message that the legislature is against wind energy and is imposing additional requirements and a moratorium that will prevent wind from emerging in the Connecticut. A moratorium would have an extremely negative affect on the investment in green technologies and green energy in the state.

I strongly urge that you reject a moratorium on clean energy.

Thank you,

  
Jeffrey L. Battiston, Partner  
Green Energy Capital, LLC